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09/748,487	12/27/2000	Thomas J. Bingel	061607-1650	2844

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EXAMINER

BRINEY III, WALTER F

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2644

DATE MAILED: 03/31/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/748,487

Applicant(s)

BINGEL ET AL.

Examiner

Walter F Briney III

Art Unit

2644

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 December 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 8 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 December 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claims 1 and 8 are objected to because of the following informalities: in line 2 of both claims a semicolon is used where a colon appears to be more appropriate. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 9 and 10 recite the limitation "**said plurality of signals**" in line 2 of both claims. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. For the purpose of this action the examiner assumes the plurality of signals are signals received from the plurality of communication connections and directed toward the communication device.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3 and 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Iijima (US Patent 4,293,739).

Claim 1 is limited to a **system for attenuating leakage signals in a communication system**. Iijima discloses a **plurality of amplifiers** (figure 3, elements 30-31) **coupled between a plurality of communication connections** (figure 3, elements 01-02) **and a communication device** (figure 3, elements S1-S2). Iijima discloses an amplifier with a gain of -1 , which means that the resistor values are chosen to have a near unity gain, which means that the output impedance is **near-zero** (column 3, lines 35-50). Iijima discloses using the amplifier to remove cross-talk between connections **such that at least one leakage signal originating on a first communication connection of said plurality of communication connections** (figure 5, element 1) **cannot propagate from said first communication connection to a second communication connection of said plurality of communication connections** (figure 5, element 2) (column 3, line 35-column 4, line 9). Therefore, Iijima anticipates all limitations of the claim.

Claim 2 is limited to **the system of claim 1**, as covered by Iijima. Iijima discloses amplifiers **configured as a negative feedback amplifiers** (figure 5, element 15). Therefore, Iijima anticipates all limitations of the claim.

Claim 3 is limited to **the system of claim 1**, as covered by Iijima. Iijima discloses a **second plurality of amplifiers** (figure 3, elements 32-33), **said second plurality of amplifiers coupled between a second plurality of communication**

connections (figure 3, elements 3-4) and **said communication device** (figure 3, elements S3-S4). Therefore, Iijima discloses all limitations of the claim.

Claim 5 is limited to a **method for shunting leakage signals in a communication system**. Iijima discloses **coupling at least one amplifier** (figure 3, element 30) **between a first communication connection** (figure 3, element 01) and a **communication device** (figure 3, element S1). Iijima discloses an amplifier with a gain of -1 (i.e. **said amplifier having a nearly-zero impedance characteristic**) (column 3, lines 35-50). Iijima discloses an amplifier with a near-zero gain, inherently it shunts **one leakage signal originating on said first communication connection** (figure 3, element 01) **away from a second communication connection** (figure 3, element 02) **coupled to said communication device** (figure 3, elements S1-S2) (column 3, line 35-column 4, line 9). Therefore, Iijima anticipates all limitations of the claim.

Claim 6 is essentially the same as claim 1, as covered by Iijima, with the further limitation of **means for coupling said shunting means to a first communication connection and a communication device**. Iijima discloses transformers (i.e. **coupling means**) (figure 3, near elements 01-05) that couple each **communication connection** (figure 3, elements S1-S5) to the **communication device** (figure 3, elements S1-S5). Therefore, Iijima anticipates all limitations of the claim.

Claim 7 is limited to **the system of claim 6**, as covered by Iijima. Iijima discloses an amplifier (i.e. **shunting means**) coupled serially between each **communication connection** (figure 3, elements 01-05) wherein. Therefore, Iijima anticipates all limitations of the claim.

Claim 8 is essentially the same as claim 1 and is rejected for the same reasons.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iijima.

Claim 4 is limited to **the system of claim 1**, as covered by Iijima. Iijima discloses removing cross-talk in a switching office, but does not disclose whether the subscriber loops are digital subscriber loops. Therefore, Iijima anticipates all limitations of the claim with the exception **wherein at least one of said plurality of communication connections is a digital subscriber loop**. The examiner takes Official Notice of the fact that digital subscriber loops are well-known transmission mediums that connect between switching offices and subscriber terminals. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the cross-talk eliminating circuitry of Iijima with digital subscriber loops for the purpose of reducing cross-talk between loops, thus improving bandwidth.

Claims 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iijima in view of McHale (US Patent 6,088,430).

Claim 9 is limited to **the system of claim 8**, as covered by Iijima. Iijima discloses transmitting signals onto each of its subscriber connections, but does not

disclose any details as to how to drive multiple subscriber loops from a single central office. Therefore, Iijima anticipates all limitations of the claim with the exception **wherein said communication device time multiplexes said plurality of signals onto a single channel.** McHale teaches a DSL network (i.e. **communication device**) that transmits to plural subscribers (McHale, figure 1, elements 16), and includes a modem pool (McHale, figure 2, element 74), which corresponds to the connections of Iijima (Iijima, figure 3, elements S1-S5), which uses a DSLAM (McHale, figure 2, element 78) to connect subscriber loops (i.e. **plurality of channels**) to a packet-based network (McHale, figure 1, element 64) using **time multiplexing**. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the cross-talk eliminating circuitry of Iijima in the DSL network as taught by McHale for the purpose of reducing noise between subscriber loops, and thus increasing bandwidth.

Claim 10 is limited to **the system of claim 8**, as covered by Iijima. Iijima discloses transmitting signals onto each of its subscriber connections, but does not disclose any details as to how to drive multiple subscriber loops from a single central office. Therefore, Iijima anticipates all limitations of the claim with the exception **wherein said communication device frequency multiplexes said plurality of signals onto a plurality of channels.** McHale teaches a DSL network (i.e. **communication device**) that transmits to plural subscribers (McHale, figure 1, elements 16), and includes a modem pool (McHale, figure 2, element 74), which corresponds to the connections of Iijima (Iijima, figure 3, elements S1-S5), which uses a DSLAM (McHale, figure 2, element 78) to connect subscriber loops (i.e. **plurality of**

channels) to a packet-based network (McHale, figure 1, element 64) using **time multiplexing**. Each DSL signal is frequency multiplexed with a POTS signal onto each subscriber loop (i.e. **plurality of channels**) It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the cross-talk eliminating circuitry of Iijima in the DSL network as taught by McHale for the purpose of reducing noise between subscriber loops, and thus increasing bandwidth.

Claim 11 is limited to **the system of claim 8**, as covered by Iijima. Iijima discloses transmitting signals onto each of its subscriber connections, but does not disclose any details as to how to drive multiple subscriber loops from a single central office. Therefore, Iijima anticipates all limitations of the claim with the exception **wherein said communication device is a signal multiplexing communication device**. McHale teaches a DSL network (i.e. **communication device**) that transmits to plural subscribers (McHale, figure 1, elements 16), and includes a modem pool (McHale, figure 2, element 74), which corresponds to the connections of Iijima (Iijima, figure 3, elements S1-S5), which uses a DSLAM (McHale, figure 2, element 78) to connect subscriber loops (i.e. **plurality of channels**) to a packet-based network (McHale, figure 1, element 64) using **time multiplexing**. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the cross-talk eliminating circuitry of Iijima in the DSL network as taught by McHale for the purpose of reducing noise between subscriber loops, and thus increasing bandwidth.

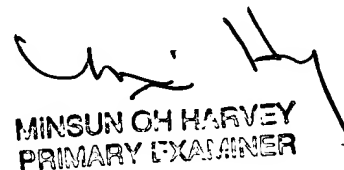
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Walter F Briney III whose telephone number is 703-305-0347. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8am - 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Forester W Isen can be reached on 703-305-4386. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

WFB
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PRIMARY EXAMINER